

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102120
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA - RBOAKLEY:MFG

APPROVED BY EA - RBOAKLEY

S/S- MR. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102120

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM FROM OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TH, US

SUBJECT: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

1. IN TALKING WITH HABIB, HOLBROOKE AND FALCO, GENERAL KRIANGSAK EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT UPON HIS RETURN CONCERNING U.S.-THAI RELATIONS. HE APPARENTLY ENVISAGES AN UPBEAT STATEMENT CONTRASTING WITH THE RATHER DOWNBEAT REMARKS HE MADE PRIOR TO VISITING THE U.S. AT HIS REQUEST THE DEPT. PROVIDED KRIANGSAK WITH SOME SUGGESTED REMARKS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID THEY REPRESENT WHAT HE HAS IN MIND. WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHATEVER REMARKS ARE ACTUALLY MADE.

2. KRIANGSAK LEAVES WASHINGTON TODAY FOR A FEW DAYS AT DISNEY WORLD WITH HIS DAUGHTERS. AFTER THE FAVORABLE DIAGNOSIS FROM WALTER REED AND SOME REST HE IS IN VERY HIGH SPIRITS.

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3. TEXT OF THE SUGGESTED REMARKS FOLLOWS:

DURING MY DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON I FOUND THAT THAILAND STILL HAS FRIENDS, THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT LOST ITS INTEREST IN THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO REMAIN AN

ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE THIS POINT PUBLICLY IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS IN PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE HAVE SAID THE SAME THING IN TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS, ADDING THAT ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AN EXPRESSION OF CONTINUED AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE REGION. AFTER MY TALKS, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ONLY RESOLVED TO MAINTAIN ITS EXISTING COMMITMENTS IN THE REGION, BUT, WITH WATERGATE AND THE INDOCHINA WAR IN THE PAST, IS READY TO WORK WITH THAILAND IN DEVELOPING A NEW REGIONAL AND LONG-TERM APPROACH.

THE UNITED STATES WARMLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO FOSTER INCREASED REGIONAL COOPERATION AND TO DEVELOP GREATER REGIONAL STRENGTH AND STABILITY. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOTED WITH PLEASURE THE PROGRESSIVE STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF ASEAN AND WELCOMES FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED STATES. THE IMPETUS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPING PRIMARILY AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA THEMSELVES AND THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THIS TREND TOWARD VIGOROUS LOCAL INITIATIVES TO BE MOST HEALTHY. AS A FRIENDLY POWER THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO WELCOME AND SUPPORT SUCH LOCAL INITIATIVES TOWARD REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTENDS TO COOPERATE IN WAYS THAT THE REGIONAL STATES FIND APPROPRIATE. THE U.S. AND THAILAND BOTH HOPE TO SEE A NEW SITUATION EVOLVE WHEREBY

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ALL SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN RELATIVE STABILITY AND SECURITY, FREEING THEIR NATIONAL ENERGIES, TALENT, AND RESOURCES TO PURSUE THE COMMON GOALS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL THEIR PEOPLE.

THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO NARCOTICS CONTROL IS RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED BY THE U.S. FOREIGN OBSERVERS ARE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY RECENT ACTIONS WHICH POINT THE WAY TOWARDS MEANINGFUL THAI-BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION. MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THAI EFFORTS, AND THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO JOIN THAILAND, BURMA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS BOTH IN RESTRICTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS AND INTRODUCING NEW CROPS TO REPLACE THE OPIUM SUPPLY. END TEXT. VANCE

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